



CCM 2014 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-8314

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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 6934, "AN ACT CONCERNING WAGES PAID TO INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING FOOD, BUILDING, PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT SERVICES TO MUNICIPALITIES"

HB 6934 would, among other things, require such services rendered by towns and cities, as food services or property maintenance, to be provided at no "less than (1) a substantially equivalent rate of pay, or (2) the standard rate of wages, whichever is higher."

CCM is unaware of any statewide need for such a new mandate, and has concerns regarding the potential fiscal impact this proposal would have on municipal budgets -- and ultimately local property taxpayers. There are currently over 1,200 state mandates on towns and cities in Connecticut. Most of these state mandates are unfunded. They burden residential and business property taxpayers with significant costs and siphon precious resources from local services. Some impose "de facto mandates" -- as may be the case with HB 6934 -- which would seek to buy good will from a segment of the public by using extremely limited, local property tax dollars. CCM has serious concerns that the implications of HB 6934 would increase costs at the municipal level, particularly in an economy where local officials are imploring their state counterparts for greater ability to achieve efficiencies.

Good intentions can have unintended consequences, as would be the case with this proposal. CCM urges the committee to take no action on HB 6934.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager for CCM, at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org.